(b) if so, the assessment made with regard to contribution in terms of percentage of average annual production made by small scale industries in total industrial production during last year;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the possibility of increasing this percentage; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The share of SSI production in total industrial production was 39.07% in 1998-99.

(c) and (d) The SSI Sector has been continuously growing. In order to ensure its sustained growth in the future, Government has taken several steps which will ensure the increase of production in the SSI sector. Credit is one of the prime inputs for production. To improve the flow of credit, Government has raised the limit of composite loans under single window scheme from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, the limit of loans without collaterals from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh and have announced the launching of the Credit Guarantee Scheme. 391 specialized bank branches have been set up. In order to enhance productivity, Government has strengthened the technology upgradation programme and facilities available through Tool Rooms, Product-cum-Process Development Centres, Regional Testing Centres, financial assistance for acquiring ISO-9000 certification etc. The operation of the Technology Development Modernization Scheme has been extended for another three years. In addition, Government has been helping the States in their endeavour of small scale industrial development by implementing various schemes such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Integrated Infrastructure Development, Computerization of District Industry Centres, facilities for entrepreneurship development etc.

Number of SSI Units

†*655. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDSUTRIES be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that production units are continously increasing in small scale industrial sector;

(b) if so, the number of small scale industrail units which were working as on March, 2000;

(c) the total capital invested in such units; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that these industries are not being utilised to its optimum capacity because of insufficient capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated number of registered small scale units as on March, 2000 is 25.39 lakhs. In the absence of any Census of registered units in the recent past, up-to-date date on working units are not available.

(c) The total fixed investment in these units is estimated at Rs. 82,745 crore.

(d) Reasons for non-utilisation of the optimum capacity mostly are inadeqacy of working capital, power problems, fluctuating demand arising out of change in consumer preferences and managerial deficiencies.

Requirement of Software Professionals

†*656. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Information Technology Professional required in India during the next five to ten years;

(b) what is the average cost of educating per student of Information Technology Professionals in the country as at present; and

(c) in what manner gap between demand and supply of Information Technology professionals would be fulfilled by the year 2000-2001 indicating number of such professionals available in developed countries of the World?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.